

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 23, 1910.

THE PROPHET JOSEPH.

It is 105 years today, Dec. 23, since the birth of the Prophet Joseph, in the little town of Sharon, Vermont. When the time and the birth place are mentioned it is not necessary to add that the Prophet of this latter day did not come through what the world generally call "noble" lineage; he did not come in a palace surrounded by royal pomp and splendor, but in an humble hut; his parents were poor and unlettered; but for all that he came through a lineage and at a time and under circumstances that would just prepare him for his great mission. His parents were God-fearing, industrious, and devoted to duty, and he learned early to trust in God and work hard. He learned the value of virtue and the reality of things spiritual. And in the school of experience he was taught to become a minister of God.

At the time Joseph was old enough to reflect independently on religious matters, a revival wave struck the village, Manchester, N. Y., in which he then lived. The sound of the gospel trumpet found a response in his young heart and awakened a desire to learn the truth. Of the Master it is recorded that, at the age of twelve, he appeared in the Temple and there sought information of the rabbis of the capital concerning subjects of which the rabbis of the synagogue at Nazareth probably were ignorant, and they were amazed at his questions as well as answers. This part of the history of the Master is recalled by the remarkable story of the Prophet Joseph, who, at the age of fourteen years, clearly saw the incongruity of the theology that was preached to him concerning the oneness of a church broken up in factions. Others were satisfied with the explanations offered, but not so Joseph. He could see more clearly than the others that there can be but one true church, and in this conviction he sought information through prayer. There were no rabbis to submit the perplexing question to. And in answer to that remarkable prayer, in a secluded spot in the woods—God's first sanctuary—he received a vision that will yet be regarded as the beginning of a new era in the history of the world. For to him was given the most glorious manifestation of Deity ever vouchsafed to man, and he was told that none of the existing sects was the true church.

From this time Joseph, following the guidance of the heavenly light, began to realize his calling, and as he followed that light it grew in splendor and clearness, until he was enabled to give to the world, as an instrument in the hands of God, a system of truth and an organization that will live forever. Following this light he went onward unflinching through trials and persecution; through evil reports and good, until he, finally, together with his beloved brother, the Patriarch, laid down his life upon the altar of martyrdom.

The Prophet Joseph brought to the attention of the world many important truths, and one of these, perhaps the most important to the state was the value of virtue and the sacredness of the marriage covenant. All over the Christian world, but nowhere more than in the United States, the instability of the family is in evidence. The United States in 1905 had more divorces than all the other so-called Christian countries. In the year mentioned there was in this country about one divorce to every twelve marriages, but in individual states this ratio was exceeded. In the state of Washington they had one divorce to every four marriages; Montana had one to five; Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, and Indiana, one to six; and California and Maine, one to seven. In 1903 there was, in the City of Kansas, one divorce to every four marriages; and in San Francisco, one to every three. These are appalling figures, and they are rendered more so because they are on the increase. Divorces are increasing three times as fast as the population.

What does this mean? It means that the body politic is sick and that the churches are looking on as physicians without a remedy. Let history be consulted. It will help us to understand the symptoms. There was a time when Rome had a stable family because the marriage was practically indissoluble. That was during the glory of Rome. But gradually this was changed and finally marriages were formed and dissolved at pleasure. But this condition was but a preliminary to the downfall of the empire.

Further, as divorces increase the promiscuous mingling of the sexes also increases. This means, as scientists well know, a decrease of the birth rate and the lowering of the physical and intellectual qualities of children, through the propagation of diseases and mental defects. We mentioned the other day the forecast of Lincoln as to the population of this country at the present time, and the great gap between the actual figures as given by the census and as predicted by Lincoln. The view that prevails accounts, in our view, for the discrepancy.

Such being the actual conditions, we can appreciate the importance of the teaching of the Prophet Joseph on marriage and all questions relating to virtue. He taught the sacredness and the eternity of the marriage covenant.

He taught the awful sin of the violation of such covenants. He taught that there should be but one moral standard for all. The world would do well to study "Mormonism" on these questions. It is confronted with a problem indefinitely more difficult than that of "polygamy," and this problem has no other solution than the adoption and application of "Mormonism" as far as it relates to personal virtue and faithfulness in the marriage covenant. The world needs to be saved from the slavery of lust. The family must be sanctified. The home must be made a sacred place. Christianity brought to Greece and Rome the remedy against the social evils of that age. "Mormonism" through the Prophet Joseph, has done the same to this country and this age. And it will yet prove true that the stone rejected by the builders has become a corner stone.

REGARDING TAXES.

The Report of the State Board of Equalization for the years 1909 and 1910 is an interesting document. It shows an increase in the valuation of the taxable property of the State, for the last ten years, of over \$50,000,000. It gives a vast amount of valuable statistics relating to the assessment of property, and last but not least, it shows that the Board has kept its expenses within the limits of the appropriation and that it has an actual balance on hand of \$318.25.

A close examination of the figures given reveals the fact Salt Lake county has not had the greatest increase in property value, as measured by the assessments of the two years covered by the report. Its increase amounts to a little over 9 per cent. Sanpete county has had a similar increase, and Utah county, 10 per cent. Several counties have 2 per cent.

The Report contains some recommendations which we presume the legislature will take up for consideration. One of the most important is the enactment of a law creating a commission to practically reconstruct our revenue laws. It is pointed out that the tax paid by public utilities is not distributed equitably. A county, for instance, with a heavy mileage of railroad lines, derives more revenue from that mileage than another county that has the terminals but not the mileage. And yet police and fire protection are more needed where the roads have their depots and shops than where they have only tracks. Hence the Board takes the view that the revenue should be more equitably distributed.

Another point made is that property valuation ought to be more uniform than it is. Members of the Board have found that property that is worth perhaps \$1500 an acre, for orchard purposes, is assessed at the value of \$70, in one county, while in another land worth \$100 is also assessed at \$70. This is an inequality that is made possible through the present system of appraising the public utility tax. A more equal distribution of that tax would be a benefit to most of the tax-payers in the State.

A recommendation that county assessors be appointed, instead of elected, is based on the fact that elected men who serve only for two years, if they have no previous experience in the duties of the office cannot give the people efficient service. "The law provides," the Report says, "that assessors assume office the first of January succeeding their election, and that all property assessed by them must be to the person by whom it was owned or claimed, or in whose possession or control it was at 12 o'clock m. of the first day of January next preceding, and at its value on that date." This makes it incumbent upon the assessor to meet his greatest responsibility immediately upon assuming office, and makes him almost entirely dependent upon the information, experience and integrity of the deputies of his predecessor.

Experience has also proved that where assessors are elected, powerful corporations and interests often control the election and place in office men who discriminate in favor of such corporations or interests, and this it is deemed necessary to obviate. In some states tax commissioners have been appointed to supervise the work of the assessors, and this plan is said to have worked satisfactorily wherever tried. The Board has studied the subject very carefully and it seems to us that the recommendations made are well worthy of consideration. We are not quite as enthusiastic about commissioners, as some are, for the reason that members of a commission can as easily be subjected to improper influences as anybody else, unless they are proof against temptation. But it is true that we need in public offices men with business ability and experience, as well as integrity, and such men could be secured for a permanent tax commission with salaries ample for the duties required. If it could be removed from the field of political strife and be permitted to serve the people without let and hindrance, it would undoubtedly be a vast improvement but as a part of a political machine it would be a disappointment, for the obvious reason that its members would submit to the modern heresy that the office is "spoils" that belong, not to the people, but to the "victor."

BIRDS AND FISH.

The statements of the deputy game wardens to the effect that fish and game are increasing in several parts of the State will be good news to the feelings of many other people.

It would seem that the efforts of the legislators and of the best type of sportsmen are at length bearing fruit. We hope that people are taking more seriously the preservation of forest game, as well as aiding in the increase of fish in stream and pond. There is a growing tendency throughout the country to replenish the lakes and streams with fish and restock the fields and woods with game birds. The fact is becoming more appreciated that these resources bring additional wealth to the State, and therefore are a benefit commercially as well as sentimentally.

Although some of the states have seemingly appropriated from year to year large sums of money for replenishing the fields and streams, many

sportsmen contend that it is only a small proportion of the amount paid into the treasury by sportsmen for the privilege of hunting and fishing.

For instance, in New York state the revenue received from the hunting license tax for the last three years has averaged something like \$135,000 per year. Two years ago in that state an appropriation of a few thousand dollars was made to establish one small game farm. To show what wonderful results, however, may be secured with so small an outlay, nearly 9,000 pheasants' eggs and 1,000 birds were shipped from the farm to various parts of the state during the year. There were, besides, about 1,000 birds left on the farm, so that next year the farm is expected to produce 80,000 eggs and several thousand birds.

Farm and Fireside therefore argues that if so much can be done with so little, what would be the result of a more equitable distribution of the game funds? It urges that other farms of a like nature should be established throughout this state, as an unforeseen catastrophe, such as fire or an epidemic among the birds, would cause a serious setback to their propagation.

Wild game, and wild birds generally, constitute part of the valuable resources and attractive features of any State. Their abundant presence adds to the value of the real estate, urban or rural, and counts for much in the way of protecting farms and orchards against the ravages of insect pests. No narrow policy should be pursued in these matters. Wild birds should be more adequately protected.

MAXIMUM AGRICULTURE.

The establishment of agricultural experiment stations in Mexico is an auspicious indication of progress in the affairs of our southern neighbor.

The first to be inaugurated located within four miles of the city of Oaxaca, its 2,000 acres of both bottom and hill land are well suited for diversity of experimentation, varying in altitude from 5,000 to 6,200 feet above sea level. The climatic conditions give a sufficiently wide range of temperature. Natural irrigation waters the bottom lands, pumping machinery irrigates hill slopes, and dry farming will necessarily be practiced on the hills higher up.

The station is in charge of an expert director, assisted by a corps of chemists, draftsmen, foremen, etc. Stock raising, dairying, forestry, and all branches of scientific plant propagation are to be included in the work. Electrical pumping machinery and motors are used to a considerable extent, current being supplied from the local Oaxaca plant.

It is the plan of the management to open in February, 1911, a school for practical instruction to students who will be thereby fitted for positions as overseers and foremen of haciendas and ranches.

Work like this is one of the best ways of serving the interests of the people and the Mexican government is to be congratulated upon making arrangements for scientific agricultural development.

Doe Cook doctored yesterday.

Mr. Battling Nelson's voice has come back.

It is the creditor who loves settlement work.

The cup that cheers never gave true Christmas cheer.

He who has a fixed income of good size is well "fixed."

When a boy is told to mind he generally loses his mind.

Love, like the beggar, is not so blind as it pretends to be.

There is no more useful Christmas present than money.

Every time Uncle Sam scratches a trust he finds a fraud.

Only a wealthy man can afford to keep his wife in hatpin money.

Senator Lorimer will retain his seat among the seats of the mighty.

The wrestler above all others knows how hard it is to keep a good man down.

One touch of nature and two of cosmetics make a girl's face her fortune.

General Navarro is surrounded by revolutionists instead of by all the comforts of home.

No doubt Aviator Grace's flight across the English channel was a graceful thing.

The Chinaman who captured a would-be hold-up should be put on the police force.

In army circles they say that the nearer the throne is not the farthest from promotion.

A Seattle court granted thirty-three divorces in three hours. Reno has no such record as that.

It is hard for Santa Claus to hide anything from young eyes, which seem to have the power of Roentgen rays.

No doubt Chicago would have felt chagrined had more people perished in that Philadelphia fire than in her own stock yards fire.

It is amusing if not convincing to hear a blonde say that she married a multi-millionaire because she loved him and not because of love of his money.

Those "masterpieces" that the Duchess de Choiseul bought of "Count" d'Aulby de Gatigny were masterpieces of imposition if not of composition.

In the boundary dispute between Texas and New Mexico President Taft had to draw the line somewhere so he drew it where Surveyor Clark fixed in 1858.

Solicitor General Lehman is working

sixteen hours a day. This is just double what the law permits government employees to do. His case should be investigated.

The following from the Springfield Republican is commended to the organ of the anti-Mormon party:

"What if Brigham Young's portrait is to embellish the silver service of the battleship Utah? Doesn't Jefferson Davis's adorn the silver service of the battleship Mississippi? People are getting very particular."

BATTERING TRADE CUSTOMS.

New York World.

The Kansas congressman who advocates a pure-fabric law after the nature of the pure food law has undertaken a crusade for trade honesty which will require all the energy at his command. A good many revolutionary ideas have come out of Kansas, but none more radical than that which would compel the labelling of shoddy and near-wool products by law. This is a form of insubordination menacing one of the nation's most sacred "trade customs."

TOO MUCH NATIONAL SENTIMENT

Baltimore American.

The immigration commission in its report recommends that immigration be treated more from an economic than from a sentimental standpoint. It requires a far less to remind us that, after all, in spite of our love for business and our admiration of the mighty dollar, that Americans are really a sentimental nation, and that sentimentality, strongly appealed to, is apt to run away with business sense.

AN EXECUTIVE SQUAIRE DEAL.

Philadelphia Record.

No president of the United States since George Washington, who knew no party, ever performed a more graceful political act than this President Taft in appointing one Democrat chief justice of the supreme court and another Democrat an associate justice. The promptness and unanimity with which the senate confirmed the appointment of Chief Justice Edward Douglas White attest the public approbation of this great non-partisan act.

KNOWS WHEN TO QUIT.

Wall Street Journal.

Having risen from the position of mechanic at \$15 per week to the possession of \$200,000 all through aviation, Louis Paulhan retires. An aviator who knows when to quit is a rare bird.

THIS IS GOING SOME.

Indianapolis News.

When a man can shoot through the air at the rate of a mile and a half a minute and keep it up for an hour, the world may be excused for indulging in some fond dreams of future happenings. The Atlantic ocean, at its narrowest point, is only about 1,800 miles across, at an average speed of 100 miles could be maintained for the distance, the trip could be made in about eighteen hours. Because of the long twilight at that latitude in mid-summer, the aviator, flying from east to west and starting at very early dawn, might travel the whole distance by nightfall.

JUST FOR FUN

"How did Santa Claus get the reputation of being a myth and a faker?" asked one small boy.

"I don't know," replied the other, "unless it was by getting mixed up with a lot of those north pole stories."—Washington Star.

"How time flies!" exclaimed Miss Thuttyfore. "It doesn't seem possible that four whole years have passed since we had the 'Streets of Paris' here."

"Surely it can't be so long ago as that," said Mr. Batchler.

"It is, though. I remember it because that was when you first began to call at our house."—Chicago Tribune.

Daughter—There is one thing I would not like in business life.

Father—What is that?

Daughter—Sealed proposals.—Baltimore American.

"So you are going to retire from Congress," said the constituent.

"My friend," replied Senator Sorghum, "I leave Congress, but I will not retire. On the contrary, I'm coming back and wake up the neighborhood."—Washington Star.

Uncle Ezra—How's your daughter doing in business college?

Uncle Eben—Fine. She can't spell very good, and she ain't very fast on the typewriter, but I tell you, she's keener. When she gets through writing a letter on that machine every "I" is dotted and every "C" is crossed.—Puck.

"O, mamma, look!" said Tommy.

"Baby's grabbed a piece of raw bacon, and is trying to swallow it!"

"Save it!" hastily exclaimed the father of the family. "I—er—meant the baby, of course, Maria," he added a moment later. "Why are you looking at me in that horrified way?"—Chicago Tribune.

"Mamma, who is 'at funny man'?"

"That, my child, is a policeman."

"Why does he frow out his tummy?"

"Hush, child! He thinks that is his chest."—Judge.

"Yes, he's got together a lot of old bric-a-brac of a very curious sort. Among other things he showed me yesterday was a cutter."

"Cutter? What a cutter?"

"Eh! Why, a cutter is a sort of sleigh. Do you know what a 'bob' is?"

"No, I don't."

"Well, a cutter is a fancy bob."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THEATRE SALT LAKE

WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1910.
Matinees Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
HENRY B. HARRIS PRESENTS

The Traveling Salesman

A comedy in four acts by James Forbes, author of "The Chorus Lady." Prices—25c to \$1.50. Wednesday and Saturday Matinees—50c to \$1.50.

Seat sale opens tomorrow.

COLONIAL Mat. Xmas Week Mon.

THE WONDERFUL GIRL SHOW.

A STUBBORN CINDERELLA

40 Girls—20 songs—1,000 Laughs. Nights—50c, 75c, \$1.00. Reg. Mats. Wednesday and Saturday—50c and 75c. First and only time at less than \$1.50 Prices.

Solicitor General Lehman is working



MUSIC 6 TO 9 TONIGHT

Xmas Goods Half Price

All Xmas Gifts, Toys, Dolls, etc., now displayed on table in north aisle, at HALF PRICE.

All fancy toilet articles, jewel cases, shaving sets, military brushes, collar and cuff boxes, glove boxes, smokers' sets, mirrors, pictures, whisk holders, ink stands, trinket holders, etc., etc., at Half Price.

All toys, including dolls, games, magic lanterns, etc., etc., will be sacrificed at Half Price.

PILLOW CUSHIONS HALF PRICE

Ladies' Neckwear Half Price

ENTIRE line of women's fancy neckwear—jabots, collars, stocks, fancy stocks with jabots attached, silk yoke collars, fancy ties, bows, etc., all go today at Half Regular Price.

Umbrellas 25% Off

IN NORTH AISLE—All men's, women's and children's Umbrellas ONE-FOURTH OFF.

Cushion Forms and Novelties Half Price

Many other desirable gifts in art department.

Carpet Dept. Suggestions Specially Priced

Today and tomorrow attractive price reductions will prevail in the Carpet Dept. Sensible gifts that are always appreciated at money-saving prices—rugs, carpets, couch covers, table covers, Bissell's sweepers, baby buggy robes, pillow girdles, drapery silks, lace curtains and tapestry curtains.

Men's Suits and Overcoats One-fourth Off.

Entire line of men's, youths', boys' and children's suits and overcoats, including the famous "Eiffel" clothing, at one-fourth off.



Knit Goods

Provo Blanket

Christmas Goods at Greatly Reduced Prices

20 PER CENT DISCOUNT ON MEN'S HOUSE COATS. Prices \$3.50 to \$8.25.
20 PER CENT DISCOUNT ON BOYS' SUITS AND OVERCOATS. Prices \$2.25 to \$6.50.
33 1-3 PER CENT DISCOUNT ON MEN'S SUITS AND OVERCOATS. Prices \$8.00 to \$26.70.
Special line of Men's 50c Silk Neckwear at 25c. Everything in Knit Goods and Men's Furnishings at Lowest Prices. We guarantee you satisfaction on every article purchased, as we carry only the best.

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A Lasting Gift—A Serviceable Gift—An Elegant Gift—

Finest line of Mantels in the state, set in your home complete.

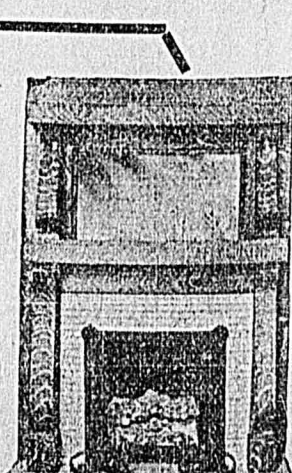
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See what you are buying—don't select from a catalog.

A patent radiant grate warms the room thoroughly and is clean and economical.

ELIAS MORRIS & SONS COMPANY.

Opposite South Gate Temple Block.



Opheum

THEATRE. ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE. Matinees 2:15 o'clock. Every Evening 8:15.

BARRYMOORE AND RANKIN

"The Old Soldier Fiddlers." Willard Rhums & Co. Thurber and Madison.

Gus Onlaw Trio. Hilda Hawthorne.

Opheum Motion Pictures.

Matinee prices—15c, 25c, 50c. Night Prices—25c, 50c, 75c.

Garrick

IND. 3737. PHONES. 1557 BELL.

Do you realize that the Garrick Stock Company is playing the screaming comedy, "Mrs. Temple's Telegram" all this week, and matinees will be given Thursday and Saturday. Beginning next week the play will be David Belasco's great play, "The Girl of the Golden West."

A Unique Xmas Present

That which will produce the greatest amount of comfort and happiness is certainly to be desired, and procured as soon as possible.

Well we have an opera glass that is a "thing of beauty and a joy forever"—that will produce pleasure and happiness in hours when you most desire it—\$3.50 to \$27.00.

Daynes Optical Co.

J. W. PAYNE, Mgr., 55 So. Main. We grind our own lenses.

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THEATRE MAGAZINE

FOR THEATRICAL NEWS AND STAGE PICTURES.